Steps to Streamline Law and Order Machinery of Delhi

1731. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spate of brutal murders in Delhi during the months of October and November, 1995 which signifies the utter failure of the machinery responsible for maintaining law and order;

(b) if so, the steps taken to streamline that machinery;

(c) whether Government propose to bring the subject of law and order under the purview of the Delhi Government which is answerable to the people of the metropolis; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) No, Sir. In Delhi forty-four incidents of murder have been reported in November, 1995 and forty-nine in October, 1995.

(b) Government have taken several steps to maintain law and order in the Capital. These include increased beat patrolling, posting of pickets at strategic points, strengthening of intelligence machinery, frequent raids at the hideouts of criminal, renewed servant verfication drive, neighbourhood watch, increased surveillance, coordination meetings with officials of neighbouring States, training of Police officers in handling modern weapons, introduction of scientific methods of investigation, modernisation of communcation network, etc.

(c) No, Sir. Article 239AA of the Constitution provides that legislative competence in respect of items 1, 2 and 18 ('Public Order', 'Police' and 'Land') of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution is with Parliament.

(d) The provisions of article 239AA of the Constitution are based on two objectives, namely,

(i) the requirements of satisfying the democratic aspirations of the citizens of the Capital to govern themselves; and

(ii) that the national Government should have sufficient control over the Capital city and its administration for discharging its national and international responsibilities and for preserving the cosmopolitan character of the Capital.

The Balakrishnan Committee on re-organisation of Delhi set-up had also recommended that "the organisational function of police force as well as maintenance of public order should be the responsiblity of the Union as stated in Parliament in 1951 and Parliament should have in this respect unfettered power,' power which is uncontended by another subordinate legislature". While introducing the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, the Home Minister had also stated in Parliament that "any arrangement that involves a Constitutional division of functions and responsibilities between the Union Government and Delhi Administration, will be against national interest and should be ruled out and that Delhi should continue to be a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly with appropriate powers.... subjects of 'Public Order' 'Police' and 'Land should be retained with the Centre as they are matters of vital importance, the responsibility cannot be divided."

Citizenship to Chakmas and Hajongs

1732. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Chakmas and Hajongs in Arunahcal Pradesh and other North-Eastern States, State-wise who have been pressing for the grant of Indian citizenship for decades now;

(b) whether Government have given them assurance for granting their request;

(c) the number of those who have